AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 3,500 in connection with the research scheme on the root diseases of the cocoanut palm in South India financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The Government of Travancore prepared a detailed scheme for the investigation of the root diseases of the cocoanut palm and applied to the Imperial Council for a grant from their funds to the extent of Rs. 92,880 spread over a period of three years. The scheme was accepted by the Council with certain modifications suggested by a Technical Committee which examined it. As a first step in the investigation the Council has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 25,500 spread over a period of three years. The Imperial Council has agreed to provide for the salary and travelling allowances of the Plant Pathologist and his staff to be appointed for the purpose and also for contingent expenditure to the extent of Rs. 500. In accordance with this scheme the Travancore Government have to provide the expert laboratory accommodation with the necessary equipment, supply of books and periodicals and also for a contingent expenditure of Rs. 500 for carrying on field experiments in affected gardens.

The reason why this demand was not brought in the regular budget session of the Assembly is that the details of the scheme were finally accepted only in the middle of September last and the Imperial Council provided for funds only very recently.

In view of the fact that the results of the investigations are likely to confer lasting benefit to Travancore and in view of the fact that the lion's share of the financial burden of the investigation is borne by the Imperial Council, I request that the House will be pleased to sanction this demand.

The demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next item of business is the presentation and discussion of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. Honourable members can speak on the Report generally and the member who has given notice of a resolution can make a speech in support of that resolution also.

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move that the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Report for 1110 submitted by the Account Officer be taken into consideration.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): Sir, the resolution which I move for the acceptance of this House is as follows:—

> "In order to prevent the unjustifiable transfer of allotments as stated in paragraph 14 of the Report, this Assembly recommends to Government the creation of a P. W. D. Reserve Fund consisting of the unspent budget allotments for any year so that the amounts may be spent for the same work in the subsequent year or years as the case may be."

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

Sir, before entering into the discussion on the merits of the resolution itself, I wish to make a few general observations about the Report. For the purpose of obtaining supplementary grants the Government appear to have treated certain items of new expenditure as "new services". For instance, the opening of a special survey class and the printing of five hundred copies of the wall map of Travancore are included in the category of "new services". Sir, this is highly objectionable because these items of expenditure could have waited till the regular budget session of the legislature.

My second objection relates to the authorisation of expenditure by the Dewan in cases of emergency under Section 32 of the Travancore Legislative Reforms Regulation. I am constrained to submit that this power is being exercised even for purposes which do not strictly come within the objects intended by the Regulation. I shall mention one instance. The Dewan has certified the amount necessary for the reorganisation of the C. I. D. branch of the Police. I do not at present impeach the necessity for such a reorganisation. My only objection is that this matter could have very well been placed before the Legislature and its sanction obtained. The course of action adopted by Government is highly objectionable.

Now coming to my resolution I must say that the Government are bound to maintain continuity of policy in the different branches of the same department at least. Sir, the P. W. D. and the minor Irrigation Department are two branches of the same department. In the Minor Irrigation branch of the department the creation of a reserve fund is allowed under the proceedings passed by the Government. So I submit that at least to maintain continuity of policy the creation of a general P. W. D. reserve fund consisting of all the unspent budget allotments for every year is necessary. This House has been impressing on the attention of Government the necessity for the creation of a separate P. W. D. reserve fund by means of resolutions and cut motions. In answer to an interpellation of mine, the Chief Engineer on behalf of Government stated on the floor of the House that the creation of a P. W. D. Reserve fund is against all budgetary rules. So far as I am aware it is not at all against any rule or procedure. The Government may be aware, I believe, that they include in the budget, provision for certain works, as a result of repeated representations made by the public. On account of want of sanctioned estimate or the acquisition of land or for some other reasons of the like nature the department may not be able to carry out its work during the course of the year for which a provision is made in the budget. Instances are not few where there was no provision for some works in the subsequent year. This is indeed very hard and disappointing to the public. I therefore think it is highly necessary to constitute a general P. W. D. reserve fund. Moreover as is seen from para 14 of the Report it is necessary to prevent unjustifiable transfer of allotted provisions. Under

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

these circumstances I commend the resolution for the unanimous acceptance of the House.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : May I know whether it is the member's idea to create a reserve fund with the unspent balance of the budget amount or a special allotment is to be created for this purpose?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : The resolution I have just marked is clear on the point. For the information of the member I shall say once again what it contains. Reserve fund consisting of the unspent budget allotments for any year so that the amounts may be spent for the same work in the subsequent year or years as the case may be, may be created.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : What is the harm in having the amount that is unspent being provided in the budget of the coming year?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: So far as Mr. Varughese's question is concerned I think the answer was in the resolution and the honourable member gave the answer. With regard to Mr. Thanu Pillai's question it is a matter for argument. It is not an answer to be elicited by a question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): I wanted to know what difference it substantially makes and what advantage there is in that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Now, the discussion may go on.

MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : The object of the resolution is I think evidently to prevent the diversion of allotments made for the P. W. D. and to see that the allotments made in the budget for a definite purpose are utilised for that particular purpose only. We know that it is often after a good deal of discussion in this House and after the House is convinced of the necessity of any particular work that an allotment is made. If on account of any reason the work is not commenced by the department before the end of the year the amount allotted lapses. In my opinion it is always better to reserve the allotment for the purpose for which it was intended and use it whenever it is possible for the department to carry out the work. To attain this object the creation of a reserve fund is necessary consisting of unspent allotments for any year. If this course is adopted, I think that it will be an inducement to the Public Works Department to carry out the work as early as possible. For these reasons I support the resolution.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*)) : In seconding the resolution, I wish to stress the need for such a resolution and to offer a few remarks on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. It is a well-known fact that on account of the general neglect and delay in the acquisition of necessary lands, some important P. W. D. works are left incomplete. It is a pity that some important works whose progress are urgently needed and without the completion of which no use will be served even by the work already executed, are left out for want of sanction in the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

next year's budget. The resolution of Mr. Velayudhan Pillai serves a wholesome purpose inasmuch as the department can proceed with important works for which money had once been allotted but that are left incomplete even without a new provision being made in the subsequent budget.

The Report in general contains useful information. There is considerable reduction as regards the disparity in the forecast of the budget both in regard to the original demand, the supplementary demands and also in regard to expenditure sanctioned under Section 32 of the Regulation. There was a substantial reduction in the total expenditure authorised during the year as compared with that for the previous year; the amounts being Rs. 2,59,882 only during 1110 against Rs. 5,26,853 during 1109. There are considerable improvements in other directions also as in the supplementary and authorised expenditure.

In regard to one point I cannot but observe that the Government have been very cruel to the poor ryots and that relates to the treatment accorded to the agriculturists who suffer for want of irrigational facilities. In regard to minor irrigation works we have been complaining that sufficient allotments are not being made from year to year, that there is a considerable reduction in the allotment from one year to another and even in the allotment which is made sufficient funds are not being spent and larger and larger amounts are made to lapse year after year. Coming to the year under review out of an allotment of Rs. 2 lakhs for protective irrigation works the amount actually spent was Rs. 1,22,000. The unexpended balance to the extent of Rs. 78,000 has been transferred to the irrigation fund. When the reason was enquired into by the members of the Committee the Chairman said that the works could not be executed as the estimates were not ready and necessary lands were not acquired. These reasons seem to be trivial. The delay was due even according to the reasons advanced by the Chair to the neglect of officers. Necessary protective measures ought to have been adopted by them in time, to prevent loss to cultivators. As a result of the negligence on the part of the officers in this direction the cultivation has been delayed and that has affected the agriculturists to an intense degree. If the department had been alert in doing the required thing at the proper time such hardship and loss could have been avoided.

Another point I wish to bring to the notice of the House is in regard to misappropriation and defalcation. In respect of those offences our Government are meeting out punishments in some cases and letting off some officers concerned in particular cases. When it is a misappropriation of about Rs. 100 or so and sometimes of less amounts by Proverthicars and Accountants such low-paid and subordinate officers are suspended, sometimes dismissed, and in many cases the amounts misappropriated realised from their salaries as it ought to be. In regard to the defalcation in a first grade college, I mean the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Science College, the Government have easily disposed of the matter by saying that the amount has been sanctioned to be written off. In this case the amount of defalcation comes to more than Rs. 10,000. It is very clear from the Report that it is a very huge amount and that it is the largest amount of defalcation reported in it. The Government ought to have taken this House and the Committee into its confidence by giving the reasons for writing off this amount, as to who was responsible for this amount being misappropriated, and as to how there was no other means to dispose it of other than by writing it off.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Was that written off during the current year?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): It is stated in the year's Report under discussion that the amount has been sanctioned to be written off when pointing out the action taken on the previous year's defalcations. It may be that the Government might have enquired into the matter and found it quite appropriate to write it off. But what I ask is, why not the members of this Assembly be informed of the particular reason or reasons for the amount being written off, especially in view of the fact that this is the biggest amount that we come across in misappropriation in this Report and in recent years. To me it appears that what the Government have done in this matter is highly objectionable and open to serious misgivings and reasonable criticism.

Sir, now, in the matter of doing away with defalcations and misappropriations it seems that the Government, after due deliberations, have found out some means by which they could sufficiently and effectively check it. Some mention of it is made in the Report. It reads thus:—

> "The necessity for devising measures to prevent defalcations as far as possible in future and for discovering them at the earliest stage, was discussed. The Chairman stated that a conference was held at Bhaktivilas for the above purpose and that the proposals of the conference had been taken note of by the Government".

Is it not up to the House and to the Public Accounts Committee who were helping the Government by their advice and deliberations to get informations about the deliberations that took place at Bhaktivilas and the decisions arrived at?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it the member's opinion that with regard to every action taken by Government a full report should be supplied to the House?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): My point is that before a decision was arrived at at the Conference held at Bhaktivilas, it was up to and proper for the Government to take into confidence the Public Accounts Committee which has discussed the same question before and which is to help the Government in such matters and try to get their advice in regard to the matter.

Sir when we discuss the report of the Public Accounts Committee of an year we generally go back to the report of the Committee for the previous year or years, and see what action was taken by Government

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. R. Elenkath,]

on the recommendations made by the Committee or Committees, that sat in those years. I refer especially to the Committee of 1108 of which I had the privilege to be a member and which I distinctly remember had made recommendations regarding many of which the Government have taken no adequate action and have easily disposed of saying that they do not find their way to accept them at present. The only recommendation they have accepted is that with regard to initial appointments in grades other than the lowest to which the Committee recommended should be made only after obtaining the previous sanction of the Government. All the other recommendations such as the separation of the customs from the excise or entrusting an Assistant Excise Commissioner with the charge of customs throughout the State have all been disposed of saying that the Government do not at present feel the necessity to deal with them. They did not care to give the reasons for not giving effect to the recommendations. My point is that it is the duty of the Government to inform the next Committee as to what steps in regard to each of the recommendations made by the previous Committee have been taken. Only if such a procedure is adopted will there be progressive and useful working of the Committee made possible and any purpose served. With these few remarks I support the proposition before the House and request the Government to take into account the few observations that I have made.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): I have been a member of the Public Accounts Committee the report of which is under consideration, (*louder please*) and I am glad to inform the House that the official members have spared no pains to furnish us with all available information, and when satisfactory answers were wanting, strong assurances of better control and care in future were unhesitatingly given to us. The Public Accounts Committee has the privilege of conducting a post mortem examination of the total expenditure side of the Government revenue in a particular year, but, Sir, the practical utility of this Committee has been whittled down by the Government because most of the recommendations made by the Committee are seldom put into practice. On a perusal of the recommendations made by the Committee it will be found that the strongest objections were raised against the authorisation of grants made by Government under Section 32, obtaining unnecessary supplementary grants, and making innumerable transfers, surrenders and lapses by departmental heads.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must call your attention to one point. A supplementary grant when once made by the House shows that it is not unnecessary. The member's point is that supplementary grants are asked for under certain circumstances. I want to make it clear.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): By unnecessary supplementary grants I mean supplementary grants demanded by departmental heads and sanctioned by this House but were found unnecessary later on and were not spent accordingly. A statement of such unnecessary supplementary grants

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

asked for and not spent is given in the Report. It is regrettable to note, Sir, that the Government despite the aversion expressed by this House and also the assurance given by the Dewan-Chairman, has been invoking Section 32 to meet expenditure which was not emergent or necessary. As to the supplementary grants, the less said the better. They were uniformly demanded when the actual expenditure was shorter than the original allotment. This is but a clear indication that our Finance Department is not able to forecast correctly the needs of the several departments of the State. A painful consequence of this sort of budgeting is that the legitimate activities of some of the important and useful departments are being curtailed to find funds for the extravagant expenditure of other departments. This practice should not be allowed. I submit therefore, Sir, that the recommendations made by the various Committees must be accepted and, as far as possible, put into practice without delay and thereby enhance the utility of the Public Accounts Committee.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): The resolution before the House raises a very important point with regard to the policy to be followed in the preparation of the budget. The necessity for such a resolution arises out of the fact that invariably every year we see several allotments under different budget heads lapse. The reason advanced by the Government members, especially in the case of the P. W. D., are chiefly that the estimate is not prepared or if the estimate is prepared it is not sanctioned by the Government and so on. These are the two reasons advanced by the P. W. D. in justification to meet the questions put to the Chief Engineer. According to the wording of the resolution if any allotment lapses it is to be reserved as a separate fund. Whether it is possible or not and whether it is in accordance with the accepted canons of budget making to have a separate fund is a question to be left to the Financial Secretary. To meet this contingency I am making two suggestions. Government should deal severely with the officers responsible for the lapse of funds. Unless for sufficient reasons, if it is due to negligence, the officers should be severely dealt with. No pains should be spared in punishing them. Secondly, if any allotment lapses then during the framing of the next budget that allotment should find the first place under that particular heading. It should be an accepted principle and must be strictly adhered to. In that case there is no necessity for creating a separate fund. If the Financial Secretary can assure the House that hereafter this principle will be adhered to, I do not think there is any necessity to support the resolution before the House. I shall therefore reserve my vote till I hear the Financial Secretary on that point.

From the various interpellations put before this House it will be seen that the question of Minor Irrigation has engaged the attention of the representatives of the people. It is a very serious matter affecting the whole of Travancore. It is rather pitiful that the Minor Irrigation Department is not functioning properly. From the budget it would be clear that every year a fair amount is set apart under that head, but

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. M. Kuriakose.]

very little work is done. I can not attribute this entirely to the negligence of the officers. It is partly due to the difficulty in complying with the rules and conditions laid down under the Minor Irrigation Regulation. There was a committee appointed to look into this question, as long ago 1930 or so, and they made certain recommendations to effect some changes in the existing rules.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: These are ideas that could be discussed during the general discussion of the budget.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): I shall be very brief. Government have dealt with these questions and sanctioned one or two recommendations leaving aside the rest for further consideration. It is on account of that that this complaint is raised against the Minor Irrigation Department. I think the officers cannot execute their work properly because the Rules and Regulations have been so framed that it is very difficult to comply with them.

In spite of the earnest attention on the part of those officers I find, Sir, they could not execute the work properly because of the Rules and Regulations which have been framed and it was very difficult to comply with all the conditions put down there. I earnestly implore Government members to consider this question very seriously. It is a matter in which the whole public of Travancore are interested and this question should engage the earliest attention of Government. With these observations I resume my seat.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Sir, I rise to support the resolution of my honourable friend Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai. I support it from a rural man's point of view. Sir, the inhabitants of towns may not be very anxious to have a resolution like this passed. Their needs are generally attended to and supplied without any difficulty, without even any agitation. The officers residing in big towns will take upon themselves to carry out those works for the sake of their amenities. There is a volume of discontent in the country that the needs of the rural areas are not satisfactorily attended to by the Government. And at the same time the larger portion of the revenue of the State is spent for the needs and amenities of the inhabitants of towns.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is absolutely irrelevant; for the resolution does not make a difference between towns and the country.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Sir, I was pointing out that my chief reason for supporting the resolution before the House is, that it is the rural parts that are benefited by this resolution.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the resolution refers to rural matters at all?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The resolution is to prevent the unjustifiable transfer of allotments. The resolution has been clearly expressed as such. Therefore Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai's question is entirely out of order.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, a word of personal explanation. I wanted to know whether anything is stated in the resolution which shows a conflict of interest between town and rural needs as shown by the member. As far as I am able to understand the question was for providing the balance of fund for the next year's use irrespective of the fact that it is served in a rural area or a town area.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: As the Chair has already asked Mr. Varughese not to consider the point raised by Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, there is no necessity for Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai to ask any question on that.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I have got a.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No more personal explanations.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Generally these transfers of allotment are made in works connected with the rural areas. For works connected with the needs of towns such transfers are not generally resorted to. Sir, I will explain my position by quoting one instance. As a result of agitation for a long period as to the necessity for a bridge in my taluk, a bridge at Poovanakadavu in the village of Mallapally, administrative sanction was obtained in the year 1932 and an amount of Rs. 10,000 was allotted in the budget for 1933. Only an amount of Rs. 27 was spent from that allotment in that year and the balance of the grant lapsed. Sir, neither in the year 1934 nor in the year 1935 was any sum allotted for the construction of that bridge.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Varughese must understand that in this House generally we speak in Malabar year.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): Is it the member's view that the actual wants of the people were not looked after?

MR. N. E VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Yes.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question is also unnecessary.

MR. N. E VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Many interpellations were put in this House in connection with this subject. But the answers from Government were "No funds. Wait till the economic conditions improve."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The history of that particular work is not relevant to the further discussion unless the absence of a reserve fund is connected with that.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): If there had been a reserve fund as is contemplated by the resolution surely neither the Government nor the head of the department could dare to give such answers nor could they try to give preference to another work which is not even sanctioned. Sir, it is highly necessary to maintain the sanctity of administrative sanctions. It is after much consideration Government sanction a particular work and they spent a certain amount on that work After one or two years the department says that there is no fund or that the work is not so very necessary as certain other works. Such an attitude on the part of the Government goes to their discredit. It violates the sanctity of administrative sanctions. Sir, to avoid all these misapprehensions and to maintain the prestiege of Government, it is highly necessary that there should be a fund, a special fund, to carry on the work once started till it is completed. With these words I support the resolution.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Sir, I have gone through the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. The conclusions that they have reached are somewhat striking. I see an undesirable gap existing between a particular grant and the actual expenditure incurred. This topic engaged the attention of the honourable members of the Committee and they have dealt with that in their Report. Sir, it will be seen from the figures published on page 3 of the Report that there is a very wide gap between the original grant and the final expenditure. As an illustration of this, I may be permitted to refer to the three departments, *viz*,, Education, P. W. D. and Medical, Public Health and Sanitation. It will be seen further that for the Education Department there was an original grant of Rs. 4,064,579. Finding that this amount was not quite sufficient for the department Government came forward with a supplementary demand for Rs. 38,644. So, the total sum allotted for the year 1110 for the Education Department comes to Rs. 46,43,223,

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Is the honourable member aware that a supplementary grant has to be moved whenever a new service is to be provided ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I am aware of that fact, Sir, and that is the usual explanation given. But my point is this: When there was an original grant, if the department had any definite plan beforehand in the course of the year, there should not have been a demand for a supplementary grant.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, I am afraid that the honourable member has not answered my question.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The honourable member has answered that and he has said that he knows something more.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : May I know whether he is aware of the rules ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Yes, Sir, I have already answered that question. I am fully aware of the rules and also the explanation given for such state of affairs.

The next department that is very prominent for this characteristic is the P. W. D. Sir, there, we find an original demand of Rs. 86,01,726. Not being satisfied with this.....

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : I want to know from the member whether he would justify the position of the Director of Public Instruction if he has spent from the amount allotted.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is not a legitimate matter for a question. Leave him to his argument.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : So far as the Education department is concerned, instead of a supplementary demand we find a saving.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether a supplementary grant would not be moved where there is money in any other items in the department ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is a hypothetical question. I consider that that question need not be answered.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : So, Sir, we find a saving of 18,190 rupees for the P. W. D. and for the Medical Department we find a saving of 53,250 rupees. Especially with regard to departments which exist for meeting the social needs of the population, namely, Education, Public Works and Sanitation, it is very unsatisfactory to show a saving at the end of the year.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*) : Is it the honourable member's view then that they should spend the whole amount? Suppose, an estimate was prepared for Rs. 33,000 and when tenders were called for, one was submitted for Rs. 22,000. Does it mean that this contractor, who submitted that tender should be asked " no, our estimate is for Rs. 33,000 and we have to spend the whole amount. So, you must do the job for 33,000"?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : In calling for tenders the department did not do things with sufficient forethought. With regard to the resolution.....

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*) : Sir, does the honourable member realise that the saving in the department arises out of the special charges which cannot be anticipated, such as leave to departmental officers?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I am not concerned with the item under which saving is effected. My only point is that generally it is not desirable to show a saving like that. With regard to the resolution moved by my friend Mr. T. P Velayudhan Pillai, the resolution is already accepted.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Does the member support or oppose ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I support the resolution, Sir.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : I would like to make some observations in respect of the resolution moved by Mr. Velayudhan Pillai. Though Mr. Velayudhan Pillai's resolution does not specifically refer to rural needs, I take it that when he tabled this resolution, he had rural needs uppermost in his mind. Complaints regarding incomplete works and also rural needs mostly relate to the P. W. D This is evident from the large number of questions which the Chief Engineer is called upon to answer here. Sir, it is with the greatest difficulty that we the representatives of the rural parts bring home to the Government the various dire needs of the rural places. If a particular road has to be constructed in a locality, it is only after repeated demands that Government pay some attention to the matter. After having obtained the sanction for the work we have to cry for the budget allotment. Even if we manage to obtain the budget allotment for the work in a certain year, it so happens that the work is not taken up in the same year itself. If the work is not taken up, the amount which has been allotted for the work lapses. Well, if the work has to be taken up again, we have to move the authorities again by the same circum-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. Padmanabhan.]

location process. It is for the purpose of saving this trouble that Mr. Velayudhan Pillai has tabled this resolution. I believe that this resolution will be supported by one and all on the non-official side.

Sir, in this connection, as has been referred to by my friend Mr. Varughese, I would also like to bring home to Government certain rural needs of my taluq. But I don't wish to do it now especially in view of the fact that the needs of my taluq are too well known to the Government and the Chief Engineer.

Turning to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, I would just call the attention of the House to one aspect of it, namely the sanctioning of expenditure under Section 32. Sir, Section 32 is intended only for emergent cases. There is no doubt about that. However, there are repeated complaints from the non-official side that the Government often resort to this reserve provision in the Regulation. Sir, the Dewan-President gave a sort of undertaking before the former Committee to the effect that as far as possible the Standing Finance Committee would be consulted before expenditure is incurred under Section 32.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I would make one observation. In mentioning the President's name, the honourable member may mention him as the President. The Regulation makes a difference between the Dewan-President and the President.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether in the case of the Public Accounts Committee the term used is not the Chairman ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*): I believe that the Chairman made that undertaking on behalf of Government. Well, in this year's report, the Chairman has gone back upon the original undertaking and he says in an evasive way that Section 32 has been resorted to only in very emergent cases.

Sir, I ask what is the harm in summoning the Finance Committee and consulting it. After all, that Committee consists only of a few members and even in urgent matters, it is convenient to consult the Committee.

MR. P. C. KURIYAN (*Kottayam I*): I oppose the resolution moved by my friend Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai. Budgeting, as I understand it, is an estimate of the income and expenditure for the year under contemplation and not for all time as the resolution moved by the honourable friend would suggest. We should have the liberty to review every year our plans and adjust our finances accordingly. If there is any amount ear marked for any work in any year as unspent, it can as well be included in the next year's budget if the urgency of the works so requires.

Then I ask one question why this partiality for the P. W. D. alone. If a fund as the one my friend suggests is to be created, we will have to create educational, agricultural and medical funds. So, the budget thus prepared will be a budget for years to come and not a budget for the coming year.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Then again, another honourable member was referring to the difficulty the members of the Legislature were feeling in the matter of demands being granted and administrative sanction being obtained for particular works. I fear they are not the normal duties of the members of legislature. Representatives of the people might at best draw the attention of the Government to the need for particular works, and I fear by going beyond that they are abusing their privileges. Moreover this House has once turned down the principles of this resolution by not granting the demand moved by the Chief Engineer for preparing a priority list of the roads, canals and bridges to be constructed in the State. With these words I oppose the resolution.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Sir, I wish to make some general observations on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Report of 1110. The main functions of the Committee are laid down in the Audit and Appropriation Report. They are to examine the Report and to bring to the notice of the Legislature any irregularities that may be found in regard to the appropriation of grants and also misappropriations and defalcations and other irregularities that may be found out in the Audit Report.

Sir, I take it that it is as a result of the work of the Public Accounts Committee during the last few years and as a result of the control exercised by them in regard to the appropriation of grants, that a closer approximation of the total expenditure to the total grant has been attained during 1110 than during 1109. While during 1109 the divergence between grant and expenditure was Rs. 10·83 lakhs it is only Rs 1·50 lakhs in 1110.

This is a very gratifying result.

In regard to the total expenditure under voted grants, I find from page 37 of the Audit and Appropriation Report that while the total final grant is only Rs. 42 lakhs, the total expenditure is Rs. 43·5 lakhs. There is an excess of approximately Rs. 1·5 lakhs over the total final grant of Rs. 42 lakhs. Sir, the total final grant is composed of three items, namely, the original grant made by this House at the Budget Session, the supplementary grants also sanctioned by this House, and the grants sanctioned by the Government under Section 32 of Regulation II of 1108. Adding together the grants under these three items, for the year to which this Report relates, we get only Rs. 42 lakhs, whereas the total expenditure comes to Rs. 43·5 lakhs. I fail to see how the excess expenditure of Rs. 1·5 lakhs can be accounted for. I am at a loss to know under what authority such extra expenditure was incurred or spent So far, I have not been able to get an explanation for that from the Report of the Public Accounts Committee or from the Audit and Appropriation Report or from the Government. I would like to have an explanation from the Government Benches in regard to this excess expenditure of Rs. 1·5 lakhs.

Coming to the audit side of the report, I wish to make one or two suggestions. The Audit Report discloses a number of defalcations and isappropriations and some other irregularities. These defalcations and

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

misappropriations occur mostly in the Land Revenue Department. In the previous years' report also several instances of such defalcations and misappropriations were given. The common features of these defalcations are wrong totalling of the figures by the Proverthikars or the Accountants, crediting in the Government accounts amounts smaller than those actually received, leaving the duplicates blank or tearing away the originals and keeping only the counterfoils with wrong entries. A glaring instance is afforded by item No. 11 in which during the Jamabandi inspection, an Assistant Peishkar discovered that for a very long time a Proverthikar had been misappropriating Government money by not crediting in the accounts amounts for which he had granted receipts. The total amount misappropriated by him comes to Rs. 400 and odd. There is also another glaring instance in item No. 16. An Accountant misappropriated a sum of Rs. 16-3-2 by not crediting in the accounts amounts collected by him, leaving blank the counterfoil of the tax receipt book and tearing off the original.

It is regrettable that, in spite of the checks imposed by the Government audit and the punishments meted out, these defalcations and misappropriations continue to be committed. I therefore suggest, in all seriousness, that the punishments meted out to the delinquents are not sufficiently deterrent. Sir, suspension for a short period which is the punishment in most cases is not likely to produce a deterrent effect. It is the duty of the Government to evolve a scheme for the effective prevention of such malpractices and defalcations of public money. This is a very serious matter requiring the earnest attention of the Government.

As regards the resolution moved by Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai, I am opposed to it on principle. It goes against the fundamental principle of budgeting. There is also another reason behind my opposition. During the discussion of the Demand for the Public Works Department at the Budget Session, a cut motion, designed to accept the principle involved in this resolution, was brought forward ; and that was thrown out by this House. This House will therefore stultify itself, if it should accept this resolution. I therefore oppose the resolution.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, I wish to make a few observations on what I would call the workings of three P's., in the State, *viz.*, the Public Works Department, the Protective Irrigation, and the Protector of Depressed Classes. (*Laughter*).

With regard to the first P, *viz.*, the P. W. D., the needs of the mofussil population in the matter of opening new roads are not being attended to properly.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : You are on the verge of irrelevancy, Mr. S. J. Nair. (*Laughter*).

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : The Audit and Appropriation Report discloses the fact that there has been an increase under P. W. D. tolls. In spite of such an increase, the roads are not being properly maintained.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What has all this to do with the Audit and Appropriation Report? These are topics for budget discussion. Please make them relevant. I would then have no objection.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): At page 13 of the Audit and Appropriation Report, we find that there has been an increase of about Rs. 1½ lakhs under receipts from P. W. D. tolls due to keen competition at the auctions of these toll gates. Within the Nedumangad Taluk itself, two separate P. W. D. toll gates have been established so that even for going from one part of the taluk to another every vehicle has to pay two P. W. D. tolls. For example, take.....

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Unless I look upon relevancy with a magnifying glass, I do not think you would be relevant in the observations that you are making.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Let us take as an example the Vempayam-Nedumangad road. Before a vehicle runs for twelve miles, along this road, it will have to pay two tolls.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Please drop such instances and proceed with your argument.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

A word in support of the resolution moved by Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai. I know, Sir, that continuously for a period of eight years, representations were made to this House and to the Government for the conversion of Kallara-Aruvipuram trace into a road. Memorials after memorials were submitted. The representative of the people of Nedumangad put interpellation after interpellation urging the need and necessity of converting the Kallara-Aruvipuram trace into a road. (*Laughter.*) Last year, there was a provision of Rs. 1,000 in the budget for that purpose; but not a pie was spent. This year also there is a similar allotment in the Budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That reference to the trace would be quite relevant if the member is in a position to inform the House that the road was sanctioned and yet nothing was done.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): There was an allotment in the budget for converting the trace into a road. (Mr. G. B. E. Truscott: *Question.*) I challenge the Chief Engineer. If he will kindly go through the pages of the budget, it will be evident that there was an allotment of Rs. 1,000 for this purpose.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The best evidence will be the budget itself. Has the member got it?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Sir, copies of the budget have been circulated to all the members of this House, including the Chief Engineer. It must be in the possession of the honourable member also. If he will kindly refer to the budget, he will find that his statement—he challenged me—is wrong and the statement made by the honourable member for Nedumangad is correct. (*Laughter.*)

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. S. J. Nair.]

Sir, not a pie out of the one thousand rupees allotted for the conversion of the Kallara-Aruvipuram trace into a cart-road was spent last year. If the amount had been set apart as a reserve fund, it would now have amounted to Rs. 2,000. (*Laughter*). I therefore heartily support the resolution moved by Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.

In regard to the second P, Protective Irrigation, for instance, it is stated at page 21 of the Audit and Appropriation Report as follows:—

> "The allotment provided for works and maintenance excluding the allotment transferred from Irrigation Fund was Rs. 2 lakhs. The actual expenditure incurred during the year amounted only to Rs. 1·22 lakhs. The unexpended balance of Rs. ·78 of a lakh was therefore transferred to Irrigation Fund under Debt Heads."

Sir, what is the fun and meaning in not expending the fund properly and transferring it. If we scrutinize the question of spending, it would be evident that it was purely towards the salary of officers in the Irrigation Department and not for the purpose of any original work, or for the improvement and advancement of the existing Irrigation works. This department, Sir, is being run as a matter of show.

In regard to the 3rd P, namely the working of the "Protector of Depressed Classes" a sad tale has to be told. Out of Rs. 10,000 provided for in the budget for the amelioration of the depressed classes only a sum of Rs. 4,115 was spent during the year and that perhaps purely for the salary of the Protector, in order to protect himself.

What I submit is that this department also is being run as a matter of show.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Sir, I heartily support the resolution of Mr. Velayudhan Pillai. With regard to the Report under discussion, I am glad to say at the very outset that it discloses a better state of affairs than the Report we had the privilege of considering last year. Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Governments now seem to have begun to give some weight to the views of the non-official members of the Committee. For instance we see that there has been an appreciable increase under savings of grants this year. That shows that there is noticeable improvement in the forecasts as compared with last year. I submit that there is still much scope for improvement, and better results can certainly be achieved if stringent instructions are issued to departmental heads. Those officers who make reckless requests for additional grants should not be allowed to do so and they should be clearly told that they would be doing so on pain of certain punishment. Sir, I have a word to say in respect of the exercise of Section 32. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai, one of the members of the Public Accounts Committee, seems to have suggested in the Committee that before any amount is sanctioned under Section 32 the members of the Finance Committee may be consulted. The Chair condescended to make a compromise by agreeing that in future a list of the items sanctioned under Section 32 would be placed before the Finance Committee.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I ask in all humility what earthly benefit we are going to derive by such a procedure. In this connection I may be permitted to place the following passage in the Report before the House:—

> "Under the rules, of course, the Finance Committee need not be consulted. It would also not be practicable or necessary to summon the Committee merely for the purpose of consulting it about these cases. It was therefore decided to continue the present practice of consulting it whenever possible".

Sir, I am sure honourable members on this side of the House will take strong exception to the statement that such consultation is *not necessary*. As regards the statement that it is *not practicable* I ask how can it be said that it is not practicable. The Finance Committee can be summoned at two days' notice, Sir, wherever the members may be stationed. In these days when locomotion is so easy and rapid there can be no force in saying that it is not practicable to summon the Finance Committee. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai seems also to have urged the point that it is a rule which is obtaining in other Legislatures in British India as well to which the Chairman expressed the view that it is not so. If such a practice is not being followed in other Legislatures I ask what is there to prevent us from giving a lead and going ahead of them. Have we not in other matters of far-reaching consequences very recently gone far in advance of them? I ask what is the harm and where is the difficulty in consulting the Finance Committee even when there is necessity for action under Section 32.

In regard to defalcations I have to say that there has been no improvement this year also. Last year the Land Revenue Commissioner stated in the Public Accounts Committee that he had some new scheme in hand to prevent defalcations in respect of his department. The present report does not disclose any such idea or scheme under the contemplation of Government. With these observations I support the resolution.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, I wish to offer a few remarks on the resolution before the House as well as on the report of the Public Accounts Committee. Sir, it has been stated that expenditure might become necessary in emergent cases under Section 32. In every Legislature there is such a provision for expenditure. That is granted. I understand that there is a practice existing in British India that ordinarily except in very exceptional cases Government would take care to consult the Finance Committee before they incur an expenditure under Section 32, although they have obviously got the power to incur expenditure without consulting the Finance Committee or anybody else. Technically that is so. So I suggested to the Chair that whenever possible they must by way of courtesy at least consult the Finance Committee and satisfy them about the emergent nature of the expenditure which made them invoke the aid of Section 32. The President said that that might not always be possible. He said that such items of expenditure as might have to be met by the application of Section 32 will be placed before the Finance Committee in the form of a statement. My friend Mr. Krishna Pillai asked what use there can be of such a procedure. I also thought at first when this suggestion was made that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.]

there is no practical use of such a procedure. On further consideration, however, I thought that there is some little use of such a concession. The statement laid on the table of the House does not give us an opportunity of discussing the items of expenditure whereas when the statement is presented to the representatives of the Assembly and the Council in the Finance Committee, the members of that committee get an opportunity of expressing their opinions to the head of the administration straight, 'such and such expenditure is not an emergent matter and you have done wrong in authorising the same'. Though the expenditure cannot be rectified, the fact remains that the criticism will form a check in a way to further expenditure under Section 32. I thought that something was better than nothing and I accepted the proposal of the Dewan as the best under the circumstances.

Sir, another point was raised, that is about the excess expenditure on various departments. I can very well realise that it is not possible to approximate to such an extent as to make the budget demand and the actual expenditure identical. But such disparity in expenditure and estimate should not be allowed. The savings effected from the original budget demand may not be transferred from one demand to another or from one minor head to another. Encouragement seems to have been given by Government to the other procedure. I do not think that departmental heads bring forward supplementary demands as a sort of financial subterfuge or short cut. Those who do so come with an honest motion before the House. We must accept that view because the House gets an opportunity of expressing its opinion on the supplementary demand. But if you say that the departmental heads must meet new expenditure from savings under the original demand I think they will only be too glad to do so as they need not undergo the ordeal of a supplementary demand being granted by the House after discussion. Sir, this House by asking for such a procedure will be unwittingly surrendering its power of financial control. I will not therefore deprecate the practice of moving for supplementary demands. On the other hand I will certainly find fault for over-estimating. That is a legitimate criticism which we can level against departmental heads. That is the way of controlling expenditure under various departments.

Sir, I wish to add only one word with regard to the work of the Public Accounts Committee. The control by the Public Accounts Committee can become real and effective only when we are able to have an independent audit officer for the State to present to us in all detail and impartially the expenditure incurred by the various departments including the Account Office. Sir, without that it is not possible to exercise an effective control over the expenditure of Government.

I can very well sympathise with the resolution of Mr. Velayudhan Pillai, though I cannot agree with the principle contained in the motion. Sir, we find that various items of expenditure have been incurred for incomplete roads which serve no purpose. The money spent on which has served no one and the roads themselves are lying idle.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Year by year allotments are made, but no expenditure is incurred and the work is not completed and nobody is benefited. I am afraid that the device suggested by my friend will not be able to cope with the situation. Unless Government make a comprehensive scheme for the completion of incomplete roads and provides money for them, it cannot be realised. My one criticism against the resolution is that it is ineffective to achieve the object which the honourable member has in view. Moreover, as my friend Mr. Chattanatha Karayalar pointed out, I am also opposed to the resolution because it is opposed to all principles of budgeting. If the Government are precluded from making any allotment taking into account the unspent balance remaining, new, important works which may become necessary will not be supplied with funds.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : May I know whether the member is aware of such a course in the Minor Irrigation Department ?

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Yes. That is exactly the reason why I do not approve of it. The minor irrigation fund accumulates there and the work is not progressing. Consequently nobody is benefited. Therefore, what is the use of that fund ? We have a small portion of the Government finances accumulated and remaining unspent to the benefit of none. Sir, I appreciate the real difficulty which prompted my friend to bring forward this resolution. Only if Government make up their mind to tackle this question of pushing forward the incomplete works under a comprehensive scheme where the works to be completed are to be well arranged in the order of urgency, the solution aimed at can be attained. None of these short cuts will be able to effect the object that is in view. With these words I oppose the resolution,

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : I wish to offer a few words in this connection. At page 20 of the Audit and Appropriation Report it is said thus :—

> " The savings under the head of Rs.48 of a lakh were mainly under salaries of the Provincial staff of teachers of English Schools and under Vernacular School education. The savings under the latter were due to the decrease in the number of departmental Vernacular schools as a result of the abolition of certain overlapping schools, amalgamation of some Boys' and Girls' Schools and the closure of a few schools the buildings of which were in a dangerous condition. "

There are a large number of schools that are housed in rented and dilapidated buildings. If a member of the House puts a question to the official member for improving the condition of buildings, the reply is that the matter is under correspondence or that the matter is under consideration or that the necessary lands are being acquired and so forth. Such excuses are commonly put forward by the official benches. This morning, to an interpellation of mine regarding the Nagaroor Primary School the answer was that the construction of the building can be proceeded with by the P. W. D. when funds become available. In this connection I ask, whether the Director of Public Instruction cannot divert these amounts for the construction, maintenance and repair of the Vernacular School buildings.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: What has that to do with the resolution ?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): It has every relation to the questions under consideration.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it not plain to me also ?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): Then Sir, what I submit is that such appropriation of amounts is misappropriation itself. Funds are required for the acquisition of lands for putting up vernacular school buildings ; funds are not available for the proper maintenance of vernacular schools. When this is the condition, is it proper, Sir, to appropriate the funds allotted for vernacular education ? I am constrained to observe that the Government and the Director of Public Instruction are taking a step-motherly attitude in the matter of vernacular education.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: All that has nothing to do with the resolution before the House.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): The sum allotted for expenses in connection with primary education and construction of school buildings ought not to have been diverted towards the payment of teachers.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notwithstanding the explanation, I consider that to be quite irrelevant.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): I am sorry, Sir, that the Chair does not see the relevancy of my discussion. With these words, Sir, I support the resolution.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): I also support the resolution. Since the time is very limited I have only to make one observation. In regard to the Audit and Appropriation Report, I must say that it is quite unsatisfactory. For the Quilon-Trivandrum railway we have invested Rs. 56 lakhs and for the Quilon-Shencotta railway, we have guaranteed a certain minimum percentage of interest. With regard to the audit of the same, there is absolutely no reference in the report. It might be said that the Travancore Government do not audit the accounts. But we get the accounts audited by the Government of India. Why not the Travancore Government incorporate the same in this report so that, we all might know how those accounts stand ? This is a matter in which the interests of Travancore are very large.

With regard to the new services my point is this. In the Public Accounts Committee Report I find that Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai has raised a point that the opening of survey class and the printing of wall maps do not come under the heading " new services. " It also appears that the Committee has by a majority passed that they are " new services. " A wrong decision even by a Public Accounts Committee should not be accepted by this House. I am of opinion that these can never be considered as " new services. " We cannot say that since these items are not included in the general budget they are new services. New services are those that could not have been contemplated at the time of the general budget.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any statutory interpretation like that ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : There is no such definition. But Rule 77 says—

"An estimate shall be presented to the Assembly and the Council for a supplementary or additional grant when a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Legislature is necessry upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : But "service" is not defined.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Whatever that be, my submission is that these cannot be considered as "new services" on the ground that they are new items of expenditure.

Then with regard to excess expenditure, Mr. Karayalar drew the attention of the House that the excess expenditure of Rs. 49,000 could on no account be justified. I fully agree with him and I expect a satisfactory explanation from the Financial Secretary on this point. I have one more point to say and I shall not take up more than a inute.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The difficulty arises in this way. The honourable members desire to speak at the close of the debate. We have just five minutes more for the official member and the mover to speak in reply. Therefore Mr. Asan will understand the circumstances under which I am unable to give him more time.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : I may explain, Sir.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : No. The official member will now speak.

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Sir, as I have only a few minutes at my disposal, I shall briefly deal with the points brought forward by various speakers. What the resolution says is this :

"In order to prevent the unjustifiable transfer of allotments as stated in paragraph 14 of the Report....."

The resolution refers thus merely to Protective Irrigation Works. In regard to Protective Irrigation, there is already a reserve fund for irrigation purposes. We are allotting Rs. 2 lakhs each year to that fund. The amount in that reserve outstanding at the end of 1110 is about Rs. 6 lakhs. The mere fact of setting up a separate reserve fund, has not been successful in achieving the object aimed at by the mover. Mr. Kunjukrishna Pillai referred to that matter and I agree with him. The object in view cannot be achieved by the multiplication of funds like this

RAO SAHIB MAHAKAVI S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Is it not due to the fact that adequate work has not been turned out by the Irrigation department ?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : May be. But the public have not suffered on account of the lack of setting up of such reserve funds. There is already a reserve fund for irrigation and the object has not been achieved.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : The fact that that fund has not been of real use-may I know whether it is not due to the inefficiency of the department or Government—whatever that be ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The Financial Secretary need not answer that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*) : Does not the member know that the Chair has got the discretion to give more time ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question is absolutely irrelevant. The member is presumed to know the rules.

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Then we have a road fund. There is a sum of Rs. 1,12,000 built up out of the contributions by the Government of India from the petrol duty. Therefore we have already two funds. The resolution now urges Government to create a third fund. Let us see what are the facts in the case. I see on a close examination of the figures, there is nothing to carry forward.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : May I know whether the Financial Secretary opposes or supports the resolution ?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : I oppose the resolution. The expenditure under P. W. D. for the years 1107, 1108, 1109 and 1110 are Rs. 26 lakhs, Rs. 28·58 lakhs, Rs. 34·43 lakhs and 29·65 lakhs respectively. So then there is nothing to carry forward even if we accept the resolution.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : In regard to excess expenditure, may I know whether that expenditure was incurred by the head of the department with Government sanction or not ?

RAO BAHADUR A. RENGASVAMI AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*) : Such expenditure was incurred with the Government sanction. There is no provision in the statute in regard to the sanction necessary for such expenditure.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Do you press your motion, Mr. T. P Velayudhan Pillai ?

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : Yes, Sir.

The resolution was put to vote and lost.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The House will now adjourn to meet again to-morrow at 11'o Clock.

The House adjourned at 5-1 P. M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly